

R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L   O F   W I L L I T O N

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7



# W I L L I T O N     R U R A L     D I S T R I C T     C O U N C I L

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report upon the general sanitation and social conditions of your district and the general health of the population for the year 1968. The work of the public health department is dealt with under the following sections:-

<u>Section A.</u>	Vital Statistics & Social Conditions
<u>Section B.</u>	Water Supplies, Sewage & Refuse Disposal
<u>Section C.</u>	Housing
<u>Section D.</u>	Food Inspection & Supplies
<u>Section E.</u>	Public Health Nuisances, Complaints, Etc.
<u>Section F.</u>	Caravans & Camping
<u>Section G.</u>	Other Acts administered by the Department
<u>Section H.</u>	Summary of Inspections and Visits

### Section A

#### Vital Statistics & Social Conditions

Infectious disease during the year has been confined to a mild outbreak of measles and other minor ailments. Financial stringency has again caused a slowing up of housing development and improvement, and has also been the main factor in retarding progress in other fields, notably in much needed road improvement. The decision to re-route the projected Williton by-pass to the north of the village will release several areas of possible development, and considerably relieve the traffic problem.

Area .. .. .	97,364 acres
Estimated Mid-year Home Population .. ..	13,670
Number of Dwelling Houses.. ..	5,086
Rateable Value .. .. .	£607,633
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate .. ..	£2,490

<u>Live Births</u>	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate .. .. .	102	68	170
Illegitimate .. .. .	7	5	12
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	109	73	182
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Crude rate per thousand population	-	13.3
Adjusted rate per thousand population	-	17.15
Percentage of Illegitimate Births of total recorded births	-	6.5
Infant Mortality Rate per thousand live births.	-	4½

<u>Still Births</u>	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	2	2

<u>Deaths</u>	M.	F.	Total
From all causes	134	105	239

Crude Death Rate per thousand population .. ..	17.5
Adjusted Death Rate per thousand population .. ..	12.25



Health Services

The district is served by Hospitals at Minehead and Musgrove Park, Taunton, and Hospitals for the aged sick at Williton, Bridgwater and Taunton. Ambulance services are available from both Minehead and Musgrove Park. Part three accommodation for 40 persons at Croft House, Williton, is fully occupied.

<u>Notifiable Diseases</u>	<u>Notified</u>
Measles	33
Dysentery	NIL
Scarlet Fever	2
Diphtheria	NIL
Acute meningitis	"
Acute poliomyelitis	) Paralytic Non-paralytic
Acute Encephalitis	
Leptospirosis	"
Paratyphoid Fever	"
Typhoid Fever	"
Food Poisoning	"
Tetanus	"
Infectious Jaundice	1
Tuberculosis	NIL

Section B  
Water Supplies

Water supplies generally have proved to be adequate both in quantity and quality. Remedial action was taken where unsatisfactory samples were recorded. The projected provision of a mains supply to the village of Luxborough is not at present to be proceeded with. The West Somerset Water Board have advised that costings have shown the project to be uneconomic.

Results of analysis of samples from piped supplies are as follows:-

<u>Raw Water</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
<u>Bacteriological</u>	186	93
<u>Chemical</u>	16	2
<u>Treated Water</u>		
<u>Bacteriological</u>	225	22
<u>Chemical</u>	19	3

Sewage Disposal


Nineteen parishes now have main drainage with efficient disposal systems, and two other parishes are partly sewered. Schemes for the provision of adequate facilities and the improvement of existing installations in several villages are in hand.

Refuse Disposal

Disposal is on four semi-controlled tips and all parishes are receiving regular collections. Williton, Porlock, Dunster and Stogursey are collected weekly, with fortnightly collections in other parishes.

Acute shortage of tipping space is a major problem, but it is hoped to eventually solve this by securing one central tip which it is hoped will provide tipping space for several years, and also help to solve the growing problem of disposal of obsolete motor cars.





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Section C  
Housing

There are 5086 permanent dwellings in the district of which 952 are owned by your Council. This number includes 42 Old People's dwellings & there are a further 18 of these in course of erection.

Private enterprise houses erected during the year totalled 38 and there are a further 23 in various stages of completion.

Housing Grants

Discretionary

The total amount paid out in grants during the year was £10,552. This consisted of 14 owner/occupied dwellings at an average cost per dwelling of £290, and 19 tenanted dwellings at an average of £338.

Standard

These totalled payments of £1,805 and comprised 7 owner/occupied dwellings at an average cost of £132 per dwelling, and 5 tenanted dwellings at £290 each.

Rent Act

There have been no applications for Certificates of Disrepair under this Act.

Section D  
Food Supplies & Inspection

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1760	7	84	9089	3372	-
Number inspected	1760	7	84	9089	3372	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	4	NIL	2	3	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	165	NIL	5	333	156	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	9.6	-	8.3	3.6	4.6	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	"	"	"	"	5	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	"	"	"	"	0.2	-





<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	20	NIL	"	"	"	-
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	"	"	"	"	-
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Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-						
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	177	-
(b) Cysticercosis	286	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	2100	97	10	1584	1196	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	2386	97	10	1584	1373	-

### Slaughtering and Slaughterhouses

Five licenced slaughterhouses are operating and 100% meat inspection has been maintained. There has been an overall reduction in slaughtering, due no doubt to more purchases "off the hook" by butchers and the increased demand for imported lamb. There are 18 registered slaughtermen.

### Food Premises, etc.

Food hygiene standards throughout the district have been reasonably well maintained and informal action was necessary in only nine cases.

### Section E

Complaints of various kinds received and dealt with by the department were 165. There were none of an unusual nature.

### Section F

#### Caravans and Camping

There are 20 sites licenced under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, and 3 under the Public Health Act, sec. 269.

Inadequate facilities for the seasonal caravaner and camper is a growing problem and the need for the provision of more accommodation of an approved standard is becoming urgent if the ordinary standard of hygiene are to be preserved.

The caravan park at Stogursey, for the accommodation of workers at the second Nuclear Power Station at Hinkley Point, was completed and a full-time Warden appointed to work under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

### Section G

#### Factories Act 1937

There are 47 premises registered under the Factories Act, including five licenced slaughterhouses. The majority are of the light engineering type, where machinery of some kind is in use, whilst some are of a temporary nature such as building sites, etc.

Outworkers resident in the district number 41, of which 8 are employed by industries operating outside your district.



## Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963

Premises registered under this Act number 80, classified as follows:-  
Officer 15: Retail Shops - 44: Catering Establishments - 20: Fuel Storage depots - 1: During the year 36 inspections have been carried out and 8 notices served. There were 5 new registrations.

## Diseases of animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1951.

There are three premises licenced under the above Order. Installations are all of the solid fuel type and are maintained in a satisfactory manner. Regular inspection by the Council's Officers is carried out.

## Pet Animals Act Rag Flock Act

There are no pet shops within the district or premises dealing in rag flock.

## Animal Boarding Establishments Act

Four premises are registered under this Act for the boarding of cats only and all four establishments are satisfactorily run.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

Pest control has proceeded normally during the year. Complaints received of infestations have been less than normal but in spite of this the number of dead rats actually recovered increased considerably.

There are now 11 contracts in operation with a total income of £198.

Twenty-four wasps and four hornets nests were also treated.

The arrangement with Watchet U.D.C. continues.

## Section H

### Summary of Public Health Inspector's Visits and Notices Served

#### Year 1968 (Summary)

<u>Public Health Acts</u>	<u>Complaints</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Notices</u>
Drainage & Sewerage		257	43
Public Conveniences		1	-
Disinfection of Premises		20	-
Infectious Diseases		22	-
Nuisances		35	2
Tented Camping Sites		19	-
Watercourses, etc.		14	-
Refuse Collection & Disposal		213	-
Other (Specify) Filthy or Verminous premises		23	-
<u>Housing Acts</u>			
Overcrowding		3	-
Defective Conditions		59	21
Individual Unfit		8	6
Standard Grant		54	-
Discretionary Grant		303	-
Other (Specify)		-	-
<u>Rents Acts</u>			
Certificate of Disrepair		NIL	
<u>Food &amp; Drugs Act</u>			
Food Premises		55	9
Mobile Stalls, etc.		4	21
Registrations, sec. 16		-	-
Condemnations		3	-
Foreign Bodies and Other Complaints		2	-
Other (Specify) Unsound Food		2	-





<u>Factories Acts</u>	<u>Complaints</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Notices</u>
Mechanical		3	-
Non-mechanical		-	-
Outworkers		-	-
Other		-	-
<u>Slaughterhouses Acts</u>			
Slaughterhouses		12	0
Meat Inspection Visits		760	-
Other (Specify)		-	-
<u>Litter Act</u>			
Civic Amenities Act			
Abandoned Vehicles		16	2
Other (Specify) Litter		6	1
<u>O.S.R. Act</u>			
Offices		21	-
Retail Shops		14	7
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses		-	-
Catering Establishments & Canteens		8	1
Fuel Storage Depots.		-	-
<u>Caravan Sites, etc. Act</u>			
Residential		137	1
Holiday		27	2
<u>Animal Boarding Estab. Act</u>		7	-
<u>Noise Abatement Act.</u>		-	-
<u>Clean Air Act.</u>		-	-
<u>Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order</u>		3	-



